

Salute These Young And Happy Wanderers

By NOVA

Leytonstone 2; Wycombe Wanderers 4

SALUTE the new young Wanderers who on Tuesday evening at Leytonstone, with a side containing six regular reserve team players, four of whom had played the previous evening and two who were making their debut, gave one of the most heartening Wycombe displays of the season.

By their enthusiastic and spirited display the young players proved almost conclusively that they are more than capable deputies and could next season be regarded as definite first team material.

Coach Don Welsh was forced to pick a somewhat patchwork side when Worley and Hodges were chosen for England, Royston and Lowen for the county, and with Lewis, Pullin and Maharg still injured. But the young deputies, Sewell, Cooper, Page, Samuels and debut men, Faulkner and Styles rose to the occasion magnificently.

Had just a couple of these youngsters been included they might have felt like ducks out of water. But with six reserves in the side there was a fluency about their movements with each man knowing exactly what a colleague was going to do.

TEAM-WORK TOLD

Team-work was the main ingredient of this victory. There was no bickering or angry gesticulations by one player to another. Instead the youngsters, coaxed on intelligently by Beck, Gale, French and a back to top form Horseman, covered each other's mistakes, tackled hard, moved into the open spaces and made the ball do the work.

They were helped, of course, by a lethargic Leytonstone, who never really recovered from a shock ten-minute goal from Wycombe. Then a Horseman volley left them a disillusioned lot. And there might have been another from Samuels.

The home side's main danger-man was Ken Gray, but on the bumpy pitch, a swirling wind and light ball plus the nagging attention of John Cooper, kept this normally accurate international marksman from getting in many close-range drives.

On the few occasions he did escape, Colin Bunting made fine saves. It was Gray, however, who made the slip for Wycombe's second goal three minutes before half-time. The ever-improving Peter Sewell moved upfield and his pass was deflected by Gray to French, playing him onside. The inside man made no mistake.

NO FIRE

Leytonstone came on top territorially after the restart but their forwards seemed particularly reluctant to shoot. Wycombe again showed them how after 57 minutes when a move started by Beck finished with Styles scoring a fine goal.

Only then did the "Stones" wake up and Bunting had to pull off a series of fine saves but ten minutes later a mistake let Gray through to score. Straight from the kick-off Gray ran through again but his shot just scraped by a post. Had it gone in Wycombe might have buckled. Instead, 16-years-old Faulkner steadied down his defence with

some cool play and within three minutes Samuels had increased their lead with a splendid header.

This completely shattered the "Stones" and they went from bad to worse. Wycombe revelled in the midfield freedom, but in a last-minute breakaway Thomas scored a consolation goal for Leytonstone. This was revenge indeed for the "Stones'" 5-2 victory at Loakes Park earlier in the season. Salute these young Wanderers.

Leytonstone: T. Mackie; L. Wilkinson, R. Wood; J. Charles, D. Clark, R. Hill; D. Thomas, K. Gray, P. Diwell, A. McDermid, I. Wilson.

Wycombe: C. Bunting; J. Beck, P. Sewell; C. Gale, V. Faulkner, J. Cooper; M. Page, T. Horseman, K. Samuels, B. French, P. Styles.